

A TRIUMPH AT WATFORD.

LUTON BREAK THE SPELL.

Rennie's Hat Trick and a Dour Defence.

By Crusader.

LUTON TOWN	4
WATFORD	0

WAS there any reason why the four thousand followers of Luton Town should conceal their joy at Watford on Saturday? A few of the Watford crowd seemed to resent any manifestation of delight, but there were few of us that did not rejoice.

WHY THEY WON.

Moreover, the lustre was enhanced by the fact that the Town had to struggle against the handicap of an injured player for more than three-fourths of the game, for Black was injured in a tackle, and, though he tried to continue in his position after his return, eventually he had to take the outside right position, where he was practically a cipher, being unable to move even at a good walking pace. His colleagues, however, rose brilliantly to the occasion,

TWO GOALS.

As a rule, however, the home attacks were toiled by the sterling defence of Kingham and Richards, who played magnificently, and they jumped for joy when the first real blow was dealt at the tradition of Watford's invincibility. There was a bit of sharp play in the middle in which Fulton, Yardley, Rennie, and Daly had a part. Yardley eventually tapped the ball to Rennie, and ran forward. The Town centre-forward slipped the ball through the gap for YARDLEY to sprint between the backs, and go well in before beating Smith with a fast ground shot when play had been in progress 38 minutes. The Town made another raid immediately, but the ball came to the other end, and a free kick was sent wide. Then came a clever goal that sent the Town followers wild with excitement. Daly lofted the ball forward and into the middle, and Rennie tapped it over Prior's head as the back advanced. Prior turned sharply, and handled the ball, but RENNIE was close up to him, seized it, and, after a couple of strides, drove it home. Watford fought hotly to recover during the four minutes before the change of ends, but met a rocklike defence, and the interval found the score:—

LUTON TOWN	2
WATFORD	0

When the game was resumed, Black

was still at outside right, and Daly at right half. Watford tried to get away on the right, but Fraser took the ball from Barnett, slipped it along to Woods, who sent forward. Prior was unable to control, and RENNIE rushed past him and shot hard, the ball going right away from Smith to enter the net just inside the farther post. Again Hertfordshire rang with Bedfordshire cheers.

McBAIN'S LAPSE.

From this point Watford were a well-beaten side, and McBain was responsible for the one bad foul of the match, for he brought Yardley down impudently after the ball had gone. The referee consulted the linesman, and the Town players were very indignant, but, fortunately, play followed a normal course.

Harford again came into the picture with a brilliant save from Sheppard, and punched away from corner-kicks. Watford were stung into action again when 12 minutes remained for play. Fraser had done a stern bit of tackling, and then rushed forward with the ball. When tackled he sent it forward up the middle. Paton went for it, but seemed bothered by the approach of Rennie, with the result that the ball bounced over his head. RENNIE promptly ran round the back, and beat Smith all ends up with a cleverly-placed shot.

GRAND DEFENCE.

Harford maintained his brilliant form. Half-a-dozen of his saves were magnificent, and his anticipation was equal to his agility. Moreover, he has the confidence of his backs, and although the understanding among the three is not perfect, it is far better than has been seen in defence for three or four seasons. Kingham and Richards again put up a glorious game. There was little to choose between them, and they covered each other nicely.

MIDDLE LINE.

Fraser played finely throughout, and was the most useful man in the line. Fulton worked tremendously hard, here, there, and everywhere, but mainly as a defender was he successful. Black had an unlucky match, for he was doing well until hurt. Daly, as in a game last season, rose to the occasion, and time after time robbed Daniels because he was as speedy as the winger, while his kicking from awkward positions was very clever.

RENNIE THE STAR.

Rennie was the star man forward, not because of his goals, which were gems of opportunism, but because of his fine passes, too, and it was a pity that so many were wasted. I hope he won't develop the habit of taking the ball back when he receives a pass, for he is improving in the all-round essentials of a great leader. Woods' generalship was always in evidence, and though no faster than usual, he often led astray opponents by his feinting. Yardley was industrious, and though having to work very much on his own, he got through his job with credit. Bedford was better in the first half than in the second, but could have beaten Prior more often had he shown more confidence.

Mr. Reed handled the game splendidly, and I have never seen a referee in a meeting of this description so firm and decisive in his work.

There were 16,553 spectators paid for admission the gate receipts being upwards of £977.